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BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 271443

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PHUM, CSCE, UR, US
SUBJECT: PROPOSED INTERPARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE ON HUMAN
RIGHTS

1. THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. (SEE PARAGRAPHS 5 AND 6)

2. SUMMARY

THE US CONGRESS AND SUPREME SOVIET HAVE EXCHANGED LETTERS (SEE TEXT BELOW) ON ESTABLISHING AN INTERPARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE ON HUMAN RIGHTS. A GROUP OF CONGRESSMEN FROM THE HELSINKI COMMISSION HAS PROPOSED TO VISIT THE USSR IN NOVEMBER. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO CONFIRM SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO HOST VISIT AND TO ADVISE ABOUT PROPOSED ADVANCE TRIP BY COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES SPENCER OLIVER AND RICHARD COMBS. END SUMMARY.

3. THE FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT OF A LETTER SENT IN JANUARY 1988 TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, JIM WRIGHT, FROM THE CHAIRMEN OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE USSR.

THE HONORABLE JAMES WRIGHT,
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

US CONGRESS

DEAR MR. SPEAKER:
A. DURING THE RECENT VISIT BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE, MIKHAIL S. GORBACHEV, TO THE UNITED STATES OUR TWO COUNTRIES TOOK AN HISTORIC FIRST STEP IN NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT TOWARDS CREATING A MORE JUST AND SECURE WORLD FOR HUMANITY. WHILE WELCOMING THE TREATY ON MEDIUM- AND SHORTER-RANGE MISSILES THAT HAS BEEN SIGNED AND EXPRESSING OUR CONFIDENCE THAT IT WILL BE ENDORSED BY THE HIGHEST BODIES OF AUTHORITY IN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, WE ARE CONVINCED THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL TO MOVE FURTHER TOWARD A WORLD WITHOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND CONFRONTATIONS WHERE THERE WOULD BE NO MORE WARS AND MILITARY CONFLICTS. A NON-VIOLENT WORLD MEANS A HUMANE WORLD. (BEGIN UNDERLINE) A GROUNDWORK OF SECURITY SHOULD BE LAID IN THE HUMANITARIAN SPHERE AS WELL. (END UNDERLINE)

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B. AT MIKHAIL S. GORBACHEV'S MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN AND WITH LEADERS OF THE US CONGRESS, UNDERSTANDING HAS BEEN REACHED THAT IT IS HIGH TIME TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS AT LARGE IN TERMS OF EXAMINING AND GETTING A BETTER KNOWLEDGE OF THE REAL VALUES OF EACH OTHER WITH A VIEW TO ENHANCING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION. IT HAS BEEN AGREED TO PURSUE THIS WORK, INTER ALIA, AT THE LEVEL OF THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET AND THE US CONGRESS.

C. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE ARE FORWARDING TO YOU SOME PROPOSALS OF THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET ON CREATING A MECHANISM FOR A REGULAR AND JOINT CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES RELATING TO THE OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES, AND FOR IDENTIFYING AREAS OF COOPERATION IN THE HUMANITARIAN SPHERE. SPECIFICALLY, WE PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING:

1-REACHING AGREEMENT TO EXCHANGE ANNUAL OR BIENNIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET AND THE US CONGRESS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES AND ON THE WORK BEING DONE TO PROMOTE FURTHER THOSE RIGHTS. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT EITHER SIDE COULD ALSO VOICE ITS VIEWS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE OTHER COUNTRY.

2-HOLDING SEMINARS ("ROUND TABLES"), BUSINESS MEETINGS, ON A REGULAR BASIS, BETWEEN DEPUTIES OF THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET AND MEMBERS OF THE US CONGRESS (BEGIN EMPHASIS) TO DISCUSS TOPICAL HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS. (END UNDERLINE)

3-ORGANIZING MORE "TV BRIDGES" BETWEEN DEPUTIES OF THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET AND MEMBERS OF THE US CONGRESS, INCLUDING HUMANITARIAN ISSUES.

4-MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADDRESSES ON HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS BY DEPUTIES OF THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET IN THE US CONGRESS COMMITTEES, AND BY MEMBERS OF THE US CONGRESS IN COMMISSIONS OF THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET.

5-MAKING USE OF THE EXCHANGE OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE UNITED STATES TO DISCUSS HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AND OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND TO THIS END, USING PARLIAMENTARY CONTACTS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION AND OTHER INTERPARLIAMENTARY REFORMS.

6-MAKING IT A PRACTICE TO INSCRIBE, TOGETHER WITH THE UNITED STATES, HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AND OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT IN THE AGENDA OF INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCES.

D. WE WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU COULD INFORM YOUR COLLEAGUES OF THE ABOVE PROPOSALS AND COMMENT ON THEIR SUBSTANCE.

E. OF COURSE, THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER OTHER POSSIBLE PROPOSALS AND INITIATIVES IN THE HUMANITARIAN FIELD, THAT MIGHT BE ADVANCED ON THE PART OF THE US CONGRESS. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT ESTABLISHING SUCH HUMANITARIAN COOPERATION WOULD PROMOTE GREATER MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR PARLIAMENTS AND BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.

F. WE ARE DISPATCHING A SIMILAR LETTER TO THE HONOURABLE GEORGE BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE US SENATE.

WITH BEST WISHES.

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(L. TOLKUNOV)
CHAIRMAN OF THE SOVIET OF
THE UNION OF THE SUPREME
SOVIET OF THE USSR

(A. VOSS)
CHAIRMAN OF THE SOVIET
OF THE NATIONALITIES OF
THE SUPREME SOVIET OF
THE USSR

4. THE FOLLOWING IS A RESPONSE TO AN ORAL INVITATION FROM
AMBASSADOR DUBININ TO STENY HOYER, CHAIRMAN OF THE CSCE
DELEGATION, REITERATING THE ABOVE LETTER'S PROPOSAL.

JULY 8, 1988

HIS EXCELLENCY
AMBASSADOR YURIY V. DUBININ,
EMBASSY OF THE USSR
1125 16TH ST NW
WASHINGTON DC 20036

DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR:

A. THIS LETTER IS IN RESPONSE TO THE ORAL INVITATION,
CONVEYED TO ME BY THE COUNSELOR OF THE EMBASSY GEORGIY
MARKOSOV MAY 16, FROM THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE USSR FOR
THE US COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE
TO VISIT THE SOVIET UNION IN NOVEMBER OF THIS YEAR. I AM
PLEASED TO ACCEPT THAT INVITATION ON BEHALF OF THE
COMMISSION.

B. OUR TENTATIVE PLAN IS TO ARRIVE IN MOSCOW MID-DAY
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15 ON A UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
AIRCRAFT. WE WOULD HOPE TO HAVE OFFICIAL MEETINGS WITH
OUR SUPREME SOVIET COUNTERPARTS WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 16 AND 17. IF THE SOVIET SIDE IS AGREEABLE, WE
MAY WISH TO VISIT ONE OR TWO OTHER SOVIET CITIES FOR
OFFICIAL MEETINGS ON HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS PRIOR TO
DEPARTING THE SOVIET UNION AT THE END OF THE WEEK.

C. AS I INDICATED TO MR. MARKOSOV IN MAY, I WOULD
PROPOSE THAT COMMISSION STAFF MEMBERS RICHARD COMBS AND
SPENCER OLIVER VISIT IN SEPTEMBER TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS
OF OUR TRIP WITH APPROPRIATE SOVIET OFFICIALS.

D. MEANWHILE, I WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING SOMETHING OF
THE NATURE OF THE SUPREME SOVIET GROUP WITH WHICH WE WILL
BE MEETING IN NOVEMBER. HAS THE SUPREME SOVIET
ESTABLISHED A PERMANENT COMMISSION FOR THIS PURPOSE? IF
SO, I WOULD HOPE THAT YOU COULD PROVIDE ME WITH A LIST OF
THE SOVIET MEMBERS AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.

E. THE COMMISSION LOOKS FORWARD TO VISITING THE SOVIET
UNION FOR THIS FIRST MEETING OF THE PARLIAMENTARY HUMAN
RIGHTS MECHANISM. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE WOULD HOPE IT
POSSIBLE FOR THE COMMISSION TO MEET WITH GENERAL
SECRETARY GORBACHEV DURING OUR MOSCOW STAY, AND WOULD
GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING SUCH A
MEETING.

WITH KINDEST REGARDS,
SINCERELY,
STENY H. HOYER
CHAIRMAN

5. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S INQUIRING
WHETHER THE SUPREME SOVIET COMMISSION MENTIONED IN THE
ABOVE LETTERS HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AND IS PREPARED TO
MEET THE CSCE DELEGATION ON NOVEMBER 16-17. THE PERSON

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WITH WHOM THE CSCE STAFF HAS BEEN IN CONTACT IS ALEKSEI
GLUKHOV.

6. HFAC STAFFER SPENCER OLIVER AND RICHARD COMBS, A FSO
PRESENTLY ACTING AS A CONSULTANT TO THE HELSINKI COMMISSION,
PLAN TO CARRY OUT THE ADVANCE WORK WHEN THEY TRAVEL
TO THE USSR FOR THE CHAUTAUQUA CONFERENCE IN TBILISI.
THEY PLAN TO ARRIVE IN MOSCOW ON SEPTEMBER 15 AND HOPE TO
MEET WITH SOMEONE FROM THE SUPREME SOVIET ON SEPTEMBER 16
TO SHARE IDEAS ABOUT THE MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER. COMBS AND
OLIVER ALSO HOPE TO MEET WITH SUPREME SOVIET REPS AS THEY
RETURN FROM TBILISI THROUGH MOSCOW ON FRIDAY SEPTEMBER
23. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO ARRANGE THESE MEETINGS.

7. OLIVER AND COMBS WOULD ALSO LIKE TO MEET WITH RAY
SMITH AND SUSAN WAGNER WHILE THEY ARE IN MOSCOW. THEY
DEFER TO EMBASSY'S JUDGMENT ABOUT THE ADVISABILITY OF
MEETING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS.

8. LENINGRAD MINIMIZE CONSIDERED WHITEHEAD

END OF MESSAGE

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